

Maricopa County Community Services Commission

Maricopa County Human Services Department

234 N. Central, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Monday, September 27, 2004

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

Chair – Councilman Ray Shuey, City of Avondale
Jerry Castro, St. Vincent de Paul
Councilman Steven E. Frate
Marty Sonnenberg, Salt River Project
Terry Cruz, Chicanos por la Causa
Louise Moskowitz, APS

Lorenzo Aguirre, Northwest Low-income Rep.
Barbara Webster, Southwest Low-Income Rep.
Councilman Fred Hull, Town of Gila Bend
Councilwoman Kathie Farr, City of Tolleson
Robert Morehouse, Senior Citizens Council Maricopa County

Members Absent:

Councilwoman Margarita Cota, Town of Guadalupe	Excused
Mark Bratman, The Salvation Army	Excused
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way	Excused
Marta Monyer, Eastside Low-income Representative	Excused
Councilman Larry Morrison, Town of Gilbert	Excused
Sarah Bravo-Palma	Unexcused

Presenters/Staff/Guests Present:

Staff:

Margarita Leyvas, Community Services Division
Mindy Wakefield, Community Services Division
Virginia Sturgill, Community Services Division
Annette Stein, Director MCHSD
Rachael Schultz, MCHSD

Guests

Donna Shuey
Dolores Hull
Tony Griffin
Joe Blanton
Alicia Griffin, Buckeye CAP
Ramon Leon, Guadalupe CAP
Esperanza Felix, Gilbert CAP
Racel Aleman, Chandler CAP

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by the Chairman, Councilman Ray Shuey.

B. Roll Call/Introductions

Virginia Sturgill called roll. Eleven members were present; a quorum was established. The following members were absent and asked to be excused: Councilwoman Cota, Mark Bratman, Joyce Lopez-Powell, Marta Monyer, Councilman Morrison, Councilman Frate made a motion to excuse the absences; Marty Sonnenberg seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Councilman Shuey introduced Annette Stein the Director of the Maricopa County Human Services Department. Annette thanked the Commission members for their dedication to Community Services and assured the Commission that, although the Community Services Division is in transition, delivery of services and activities have not been impacted. Annette praised the CSD staff for their commitment and work.

C. Opening Prayer

Louise Moskowitz led the prayer.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Hull led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Shuey requested a correction to the minutes of the August 23rd meeting. *Although marked as absent, Terri Cruz was present at the meeting.* Robert Morehouse made a motion to accept the minutes of 8/23/04 with corrections. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hull. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. Business

A. Directors Report

Marge Leyvas reported:

- ◆ The El Mirage CAP will not close on October 15, 2004. On September 23rd the City Council voted to rescind their previous decision to invoke early contract termination. CAP services will continue through fiscal year 04-05. The Council also unanimously voiced their intention to find the resources to continue CAP through the annual contract renewals.
- ◆ Lorenzo Aguirre, El Mirage CAP Director, thanked the Human Services Department and CSD staff for the support that was provided to the El Mirage staff.
- ◆ Community Services continues to participate in the Access to Benefits Coalition (ABC), an effort to enroll seniors in the \$600 credit for prescription drugs.
- ◆ Community Service staff continue to participate on the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) workgroup. The workgroup is preparing information for presentation to the Governor to garner her support in efforts to increase the LIHEAP dollar amount that is received by the state for energy assistance. Currently only 9% of households eligible for assistance receive services.
- ◆ The National Low-Income Energy Consortium (NLIEC) will hold their annual conference in Phoenix in June 2005. Community Services staff participated in bringing the conference to Arizona. More information will be provided at a later date.
- ◆ Community Service staff attended the Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) Board meeting and the Maricopa Association of Government (MAG) meetings.
- ◆ Community Service staff attended a meeting hosted by ACAA and Arizona Public Service (APS) to discuss the APS contract for Weatherization & Repair/Replace and Utility Assistance program.
- ◆ Staff attended: *Workplace Violence* workshop, Community Services is exploring the possibility of providing this type of

training to CAP Staff.

- ◆ Marge will be attending the West Valley Human Services Stakeholders meeting on 9/28/04. She was asked to present and provide information on the El Mirage CAP situation.
- ◆ Rex Critchfield was named Assistant Director of the DES Division of Aging and Community Services (DACS). The state Community Action Agency directors will be meeting with him to discuss Community Action issues.
- ◆ DES will conduct an on-site monitoring visit of MCHSD/CSD in December. The monitoring will include on-site visits to three CAP offices – Gilbert, Glendale, and Tolleson.
- ◆ Community Services staff are working on planning and accumulating information for the People's Resource Kits (PERKs). These kits are used by caseworkers as a case management tool, assist clients in enrolling in utility/telephone discount programs, and connect with additional resources. An assembly date will be set based on the availability of the new edition of ACAA's People's Information Guide. When a date is scheduled, Commission members will be invited to help with assembling 3000 PERKs.
- ◆ The current Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) program year ends September 30th. All EFSP money was expended.
- ◆ Additional MC Human Service Department activities are:
 1. Maricopa County hosted an award presentation for the National Association of Counties (NACo) award winners throughout the county. A picture of CSD staff receiving an award for the Avondale Vianney Villas project was on display;
 2. The department held a Combined Charitable Campaign activity. A "Trike Race" was held. Pictures of the race were shown to the Commission. Approximately \$140 was raised and donated to the Teen Resource Center;
 3. Since January 2004, CSD staff has provided case management services for the Maricopa County Employees Assisting and Supporting Employees (EASE) program. County employees can apply for emergency financial assistance through this fund.
- ◆ Commission Members who are low-income representatives are eligible to request mileage re-imbursement for attending commission meetings. Anyone interested may request an information form from Virginia Sturgill, who will assist them with the process.
- ◆ A spreadsheet reflecting Commission member attendance over the past two years was distributed to members.
- ◆ Commission meeting dates for FY 04-05 was distributed to members. Marge explained that, for contract compliance, the Commission must have a minimum of nine (9) scheduled meetings during the fiscal year. Members will vote on the dates at the next Commission meeting.
- ◆ The draft job description for the Assistant Director of the Community Services Division was distributed to members. Members were asked to review and submit suggestions by the

end of the week.

- ◆ Councilman Frate asked if the City of Tempe had been contacted for a replacement for former Councilman Cahill. Marge reported that a letter had been sent to the Mayor, but no response had been received to date.

B. Presentation on SAIL Program

Barbara Hill, Case Management Administrator, presented information on the Senior Adult Independent Living Program. This program helps individuals to continue living at home by providing needed assistance with daily living activities. Currently there are approximately 4000 clients enrolled in the program. Referrals to this program are made through the Senior Help Line (602) 264-HELP (4357).

C. Commission Membership Vacancies

Several nominations were received for commission seats.

- **Low-Income Representative:**
Eastside, Chandler/Gilbert - Nancy Warner;
Southwest, Gila Bend - Lynn Farmer.
- **Private Sector Representative:**
St. Vincent de Paul, Alternate – Jerry Castro;
Chicanos por la Causa, Alternate – Jose Cortez.

Discussion followed. Councilman Frate made a motion to accept the names of the nominees as commission members and/or alternates. Motion was seconded by Marty Sonnenberg. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

3. Closing

A. Board Remarks & Announcements

- Robert Morehouse announced that the Arizona Silver Haired Legislature Resolution 0204 support for LIHEAP will be addressed on October 12th at 3:30 at the State Capitol.

B. Call to the Public

- None

C. Adjournment

Motion for adjournment by Councilwoman Farr; seconded by Councilman Hull. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.